



**For Immediate Release  
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## **ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL TO DO MAINTENANCE ON DOME, STATUE OF FREEDOM THIS SUMMER**

**WASHINGTON** – Beginning after the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, the U.S. Capitol Dome and the Statue of Freedom will undergo maintenance and cleaning.

The Office of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) completed the first phase of its Dome Rehabilitation program in 2000. Since then, the AOC performed an interim repainting of the Dome in 2001 and an inspection and resealing of the joints in 2003. An annual inspection and resealing of the Dome also was completed in 2005 and 2006. In addition to the annual inspection and resealing of the Dome this year, the AOC's Curator will be performing recurring maintenance work on the Statue of Freedom. As a result of this scheduled work, and in coordination with the Tour Guide Office, Dome tours will be suspended during July and August.

### ***Statue of Freedom's Maintenance Effort — July 5 - 31***

The Statue of Freedom will undergo a major maintenance effort during the month of July. To accomplish these maintenance activities, beginning on July 5, a scaffold will be erected around the statue to provide access. The maintenance work will take approximately two weeks and upon completion of the conservation effort, the scaffold will be removed. The required maintenance treatment involves washing the statue, inspecting and documenting the condition of its interior and exterior surfaces, performing repairs as necessary, replacing the caulking or epoxy fills as required, and renewing its protective coating.

### ***Annual Inspection & Resealing of the Dome — August 1 - 31***

This effort will entail the inspection of the joints in the exterior shell and interior surfaces of the Dome from the base of the Statue of Freedom down to the cornice below the Beltcourse level. Joints will be cleaned and resealed. This will ensure that the "umbrella" over the Rotunda remains watertight.

The resealing and inspection of the Dome will take approximately four weeks. During the inspection and resealing operations, personnel will be working on the outside shell and interstitial spaces of the Dome. Therefore, those on the ground will see personnel supported on safety lines from the Dome.

